

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03723 062243Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00
USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 USIE-00
INRE-00 /053 W

-----062247Z 089385 /72

O 062220Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4616

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RECIFE IMMEDIATE

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FOR MRS. CARTER'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EC OVIP, (MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER)

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTING OF ANTI-CARTER INCIDENTS

1. EMBASSY HAS READ WITH SOME BEMUSEMENT PRESS STORIES FILED BY MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ACCOMPANYING MRS. CARTER AND WIRE SERVICE STORIES CONCERNING ANTI-CARTER STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE JUNE 2. THE REPORTS BADLY EXAGGERATED THE INCIDENT AND, IN FACT, THE REPORTERS THEMSELVES CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEMONSTRATIONS.

2. SOME REPORTS CITED UP TO 200 STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS THROWING ROCKS AND MALOTOV COCKTAILS, AS WELL AS SHOUTING ANTI-US AND ANTI-CARTER SLOGANS. WHAT THE PRESS FAILED TO EMPHASIZE WAS THAT STUDENT ACTIVITY WAS RELATED TO A SALARY-ORIENTED NATIONWIDE TEACHER STRIKE THAT BEGAN MAY 18. MRS. CARTER'S APPEARANCE AT THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE, ACROSS THE STREET FROM ECUADOR'S
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MEDICAL SCHOOL, GAVE THE STUDENTS AN IDEAL TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY. THE STUDENTS WERE FORMED TO SUPPORT THE TEACHERS STRIKE BUT THE ARRIVAL OF THE CARTER PARTY ALLOWED A REVOLUTIONARY-LINE STUDENT FACTION TO ALSO GET IN ITS DIGS AT THE US.

3. ALTHOUGH THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN NOISY (USING A BULL HORN UNTIL AUTHORITIES CUT OFF POWER), THERE HAD BEEN NO ROCK THROWING

UNTIL THE PRESS ACCOMPANYING THE CARTER PARTY ATTEMPTED TO APPROACH THEM FOR INTERVIEWS. THE ARRIVAL OF A US REPORTER CARRYING A SIGN READING "WE WANT TO TALK WITH YOU" PROVOKED THE ROCK THROWING, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A POLICE TEAR GAS ATTACK ON THE STUDENTS. OTHER US REPORTERS LATER EXPRESSED VIEW TO EMBOFFS THAT THE INCIDENT WAS LARGELY CAUSED BY THE BEHAVIOR OF THE US PRESS.

4. THE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS INVOLVED WAS ALSO HIGHLY EXAGGERATED. EMBOFFS WHO OBSERVED THE INCIDENT COUNTED BETWEEN 12 AND 15 STUDENTS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SHOUTING AND ROCK THROWING, WHILE A NUMBER OF CURIOUS BYSTANDERS LOOKED ON.

5. COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THIS SINGLE INCIDENT, THE VISIT WAS REMARKABLY FREE OF THE EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION BY THE FAR LEFT. OTHER THAN THIS, UNCHARITABLE GRAFFITI APPEARED ONLY IN THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THIS WAS DENOUNCED PUBLICLY BY OTHER STUDENTS THEMSELVES. SINCE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY ARE WIDELY TOLERATED HERE, WE ARE GRATIFIED BY THE MUFFLED LEFT-WING REACTION AND ATTRIBUTE IT TO THE SUCCESS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS HAD THUS FAR IN UNDERCUTTING TRADITIONAL RADICAL DEMAGOGUERY ABOUT THE US.
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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